

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the last full paragraph of page 10 to the first full paragraph of page 11 with the following re-written versions:

Figure 1 illustrates the blood collection container 2-50 pushed into the open rear end of housing 46 and almost in engagement with the rear of needle 1A.

Figure 2 illustrates further forward movement of the blood collection container 2-50 which has now been pushed against needle 1A with sufficient force to cause needle 1A to pass through the sealing bung on the forward end of container 250. The vacuum within container 2-50 will now cause blood or other body fluid to be sucked through needle 1A and into container 250. The arrangement also causes the protective sheath 45 to be pushed away to expose needle 1A, and this protective sheath is accommodated within an enlargement in the bung, this being illustrated in figure 2.

Figures 3-5 illustrate a needle retraction device 47 in operation. The needle retraction device 47 is a separate member that is pushed into the rear of housing 46 after the blood collection container 2-50 has been filled and removed from the housing 46.

Please also replace the last paragraph starting on page 12 with the following re-written version:

The outer rubber cover also contains a further outwardly extending ring 5C that grips the inside wall of the needle retraction device and which functions to act as a "brake" or a "speed controller" to control the retraction of the piston into the needle retraction device. To explain, without this additional part, retraction of the piston can be quite sudden and can cause alarm to the person using the device. The outwardly extending ring 5C functions to slow down the retraction of the piston by increasing the frictional group-grip of the piston against the inside wall of the needle retraction device.